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YELLOW FEVER STUDIES  
SOUTH AMERICA

DR. FRED L. SOPER, REPRESENTATIVE  
AV. RUI BARBOSA, 12, RIO DE JANEIRO - BRASIL.

CAIXA POSTAL 49  
RIO DE JANEIRO

*Dear [unclear] May 24*  
Cuiaba, Matto Grosso, Brazil.

Dear Margaret: The plane that brought us here yesterday afternoon will take this on its way at noon to-morrow. Dr. Soper and I have had a wonderful 3-day trip. My last letter was written from the plane flying from Bahia to Rio de Janeiro. We arrived there at 4 p.m. and took the night train to São Paulo at 7 p.m. In Rio I received my first letter from you, Old Sweetheart, and I was glad indeed to get it, particularly as it might be several weeks before I could be reached again (by forwarded mail). It was exactly one month since I left New York. That fellow who was trying to serve a summons on me will have to travel! There is no one who would be wanting me to give expert testimony on this trichinosis unless investigated by our neighbor Mr. Schilling across the street in the Thielers, who once talked to me about a legal case of his. It is just as well that he was an <sup>old</sup> man.

I am glad that the trip to Vassouras was so successful and that you took along a few people who could stay awake. Even the young cannot do without sleep.

Our trip has been an extraordinary exhibition of what air travel can do and is doing. We flew 800 miles on Wednesday, from Bahia to Rio. The night-train took us to São Paulo where we took a small rail road with the capacity of a 7-passenger auto, including the pilot and mechanic. We flew north-westward all day — about 1,000 kilometers — first across mountains, then coffee plantations, and finally cattle country. Most of the time we were very high. The next day we were again over plains and the horizon was level and straight. <sup>we flew 800 kilometers</sup> gradually the country became wetter and finally there was swamp everywhere with the crookedest rivers you ever heard of and many lakes. In the drier places there were Indian cattle (zebu type) and game. At times we flew so low over grassy places that the trees and palms were higher than we and the animals were terrified by the noise and scampered in every direction. We saw warthogs, ostriches (S.A. variety), deer, and endless water fowl. There were flocks of black cormorants, thousands of them.

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### YELLOW FEVER STUDIES SOUTH AMERICA

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a bird like the egret but pink or rose, giant white cranes  
that with black necks and a red spot at the base of the  
neck. I needed a bird book. Finally we landed at  
Columba on the Paraguay River. Nature had pushed up a  
few hills and made a dry spot for a city on the edge  
of the river. It winds so that it would take eight  
days to go from there to Cuiabá, our destination by boat,  
but we could make it in a few hours. We left our  
little tin bird there and proceeded in a hydroplane of about  
the same size. Part of the time we flew so high that  
our shadow disappeared and was replaced by a spot  
of light. Can Billy explain that? It is too much for me.

When we were only moderately high we could see  
groups of alligators on the sand banks. They looked just  
like Oscar at our distance. Finally we landed down  
and lighted on the river and pulled up to the shore.  
There was a photographer there to take our pictures as  
we landed and we may have appeared in the local  
paper. We are taking it easy to day, but tomorrow  
morning at 4 we shall start by auto to join Dr. Burke  
where he is studying a yellow fever outbreak. He has  
reported the absence of yellow fever in the houses and  
it looks as if we might be dealing with another of those  
stepl-less outbreaks. In the meanwhile a control service  
had been started here in Cuiabá, the capital of Mato Grosso.

Last evening, tired as we were, we had  
to attend a reception and dance given by the  
Interventor to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of his  
administration. We had no dress clothes, but neither  
did most of the guests at this popular affair. The  
orchestra was the funniest you ever saw at so formal  
an occasion. About 20 negroes with white sailor's caps  
played. Most of them had banjos, one played the clarinet, one  
had a drum, and one had a violin. The violinist had  
a red bandanna tied round his head & he concluded he  
had a toothache. A cigarette stuck out of the exposed part of his  
face. Unusually a concession in recognition of his self sacrifice.

Sols of love & all